

Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS)

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Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board
Educational Session
January 18, 2017

Overview

- ▶ National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
- ▶ Definitions
- ▶ Eligibility Criteria
- ▶ Section 106 Process
- ▶ Types of Historic Properties at the NNSS
- ▶ Significant Sites Associated with Nuclear Testing
- ▶ Historic Buildings Associated with Nuclear Testing
- ▶ Summary

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA)

- ▶ Intended to preserve historical and archaeological sites in the U.S.
- ▶ Created the National Register of Historic Places, the list of National Historic Landmarks, and the State Historic Preservation Offices
- ▶ Section 106 of the NHPA requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties
- ▶ Requires consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Tribes

Undertaking - 36 CFR 800.16(y)

Undertaking means a project, activity, or program funded in whole or in part under the direct or indirect jurisdiction of a Federal agency, including those carried out by or on behalf of a Federal agency; those carried out with Federal assistance; those requiring a Federal permit, license or approval; and those subject to state or local regulation administered pursuant to a delegation or approval by a Federal agency.

Historic Property

Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register).

Eligibility Criteria

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

B. That are associated with the lives of significant persons in our past; or

Eligibility Criteria (continued)

- C.** That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D.** That have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

Section 106 Process

- ▶ 36 CFR 800 Subpart B describes the Section 106 Process in detail
- ▶ Process implemented at the NNSS
 - Receive notification of a proposed project/activity (undertaking)
 - Archaeologists conduct surveys of the Area of Potential Effect (APE) to determine whether historic properties are present within the APE
 - Coordinate with the Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations (CGTO) either through their Spokesperson or through a Tribal Subcommittee

Section 106 Process (continued)

- ▶ If historic properties are present:
 - A determination is made as to whether the proposed project/activity will affect the historic properties
 - Research and evaluation is conducted to determine whether the properties meet the eligibility criteria for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places
 - Coordinate with project personnel to identify mitigation measures to avoid or reduce the impact to the properties

Section 106 Process (continued)

- ▶ A Cultural Resources Inventory Report is prepared that documents the results of the surveys, research, and evaluation.
- ▶ Based on the findings presented in the Report, the Nevada Field Office (NFO) makes the determination that the historic properties would/would not be affected and states whether the properties are eligible for the National Register.

Section 106 Process (continued)

- ▶ The Report and NFO determinations are submitted to the SHPO and we request concurrence on our determinations.
- ▶ After consideration of comments and recommendations from SHPO and the Tribes, the Federal agency (National Nuclear Security Administration) has the authority to proceed with the proposed project or not.

Types of historic properties at the NNSS

► Archaeological Sites



Pictographs in Cat Canyon



Rainier Mesa

Types of Historic Properties (continued)

▶ American Indian Sacred Sites



One of the Three Sisters

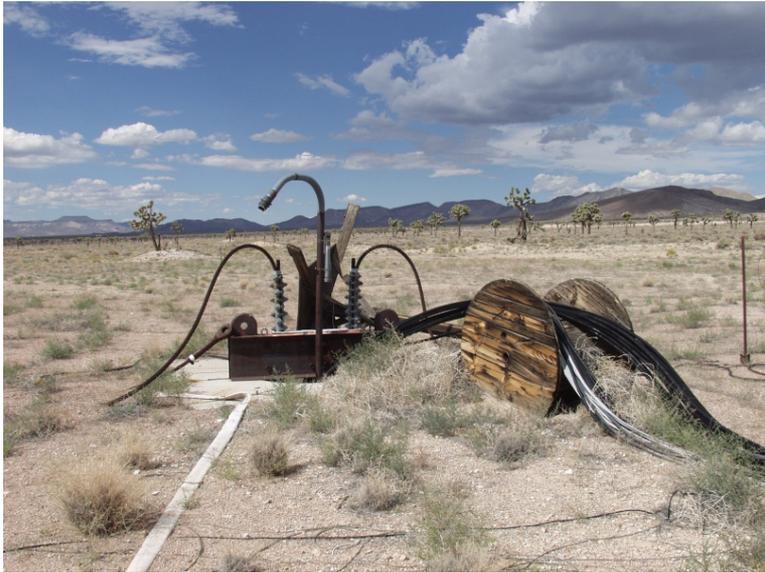
Types of Historic Properties (continued)

► Historic Sites



Cabin at Cane Spring

Significant Sites Associated with Nuclear Testing



Emplacement Hole for an
Underground Test
(Yucca Flat)



Ship in the Desert,
a mobile diagnostics structure

Significant Sites Associated with Nuclear Testing (continued)



Debris Pile



Huron King,
(surface structure associated with an
underground vertical weapons-effects test)

Significant Sites Associated with Nuclear Testing (continued)



Apple-2 House

Significant Sites Associated with Nuclear Testing (continued)



Nuclear Effects Structures on Frenchman Flat

Significant Sites Associated with Nuclear Testing (continued)



Sedan Crater

The only site on the NNSS that is listed on the
National Register of Historic Places

Historic Buildings Associated with Nuclear Testing

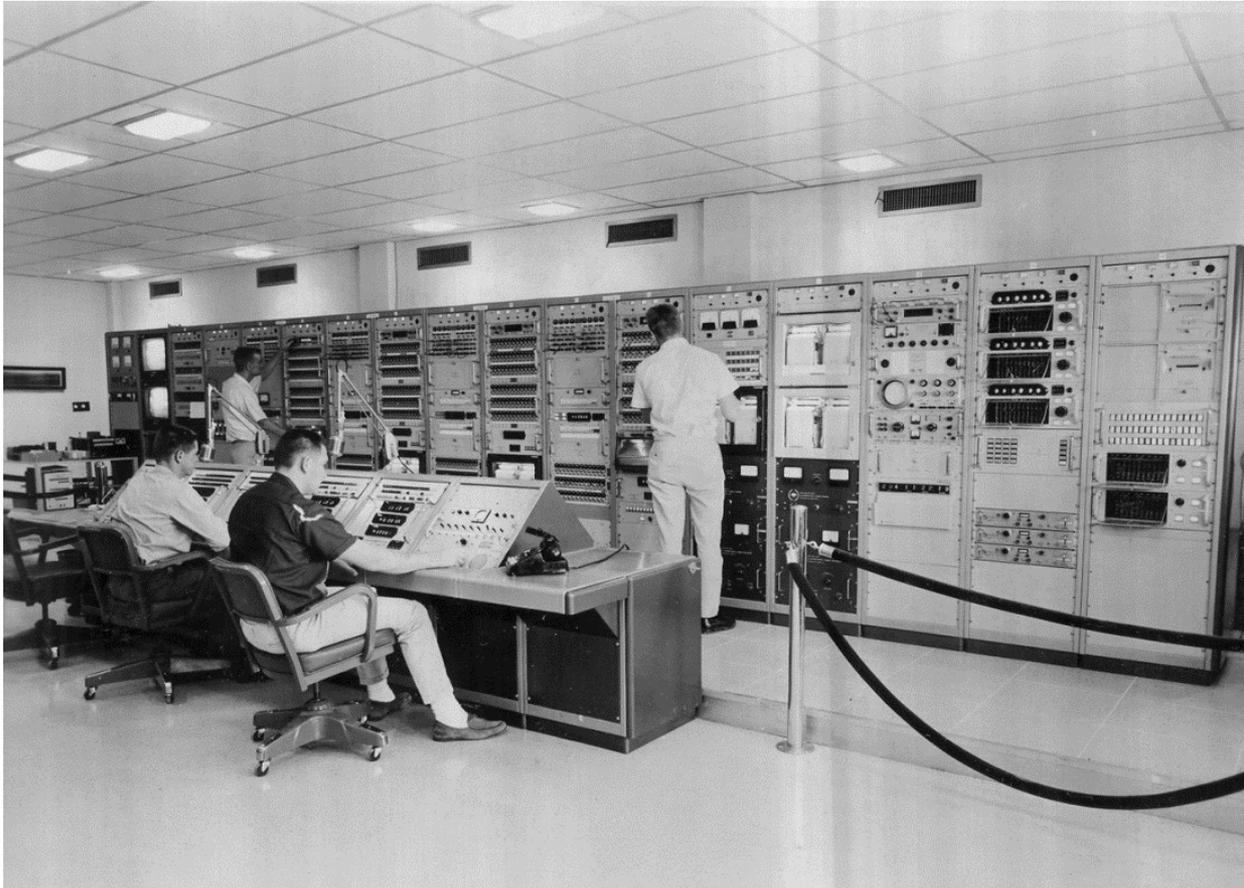


Control Point 1 (CP-1)

Historic Buildings Associated with Nuclear Testing (continued)

- ▶ The “undertaking” for CP-1 is closure in place
- ▶ The building has been vacant since December 2015
- ▶ A Section 106 Evaluation of CP-1 was completed in November 2016
- ▶ CP-1 is eligible for listing on the National Register at the National level of significance under Criteria A, C, and D
- ▶ SHPO consultation is in progress

Historic Buildings Associated with Nuclear Testing (continued)



Control Room on the First Floor of CP-1 in 1965

Historic Buildings Associated with Nuclear Testing (continued)



War Room in 1970



War Room in 1985

Historic Buildings Associated with Nuclear Testing (continued)



War Room in 2016

Historic Buildings Associated with Nuclear Testing (continued)



War Room Observation Gallery in 2016

Historic Buildings Associated with Nuclear Testing (continued)



DOE Briefing Room in 2016

Historic Buildings Associated with Nuclear Testing (continued)



Mercury Bowling Alley
Closed in the mid to late 1990s
(Photo 2016)

Historic Buildings Associated with Nuclear Testing (continued)

- ▶ The “undertaking” is to possibly demolish the Mercury Bowling Alley and construct a new office building
- ▶ The building has been vacant since the mid to late 1990s
- ▶ A Section 106 Evaluation was completed in July 2016
- ▶ The bowling alley is eligible for listing on the National Register at the local level of significance under Criteria A and C
- ▶ SHPO consultation is in progress

Historic Buildings Associated with Nuclear Testing (continued)



Mercury Bowling Alley - THEN

Historic Buildings Associated with Nuclear Testing (continued)



Mercury Bowling Alley - NOW

Historic Buildings Associated with Nuclear Testing (continued)



Mercury Bowling Alley - NOW

In Summary...

- ▶ The NHPA is a “Process”
- ▶ The intent is to preserve historical and archaeological sites
- ▶ Not all eligible sites are preserved
- ▶ After considering input from SHPO and Tribes, the Federal agency has the authority to proceed with an undertaking even if historic properties will be affected

Questions?